



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

— *Lee Holloway* —

Chairman of the Board

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Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

**CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY ASKS MAYOR BARRETT, COUNTY EXECUTIVE WALKER
TO NOT IGNORE MILWAUKEE COUNTY TRANSIT FUNDING SOURCES**

Mayor, County Executive should not turn their backs on low-income residents

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway is requesting Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker and Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett show leadership by helping low-income people use transit in Milwaukee. Barrett and Walker are opposed to a recent Regional Transit Authority proposal to increase the sales tax by 0.5% to provide a dedicated funding source for the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS). Holloway released the following statement ahead of the Regional Transit Authority meeting, set for Tuesday, January 30th:

“It’s pitiful that County Executive Walker supported a sales tax increase to build Miller Park when he was in the state legislature, but does not favor a similar tax increase to support transit. It shows that he’s willing to subsidize millionaire ballplayers, but not give similar treatment to low-income families, senior citizens, and the disabled. The County Board adopted a policy stating that Milwaukee County’s highest priority for the Regional Transit Authority is to identify a non-property tax dedicated funding source, including a sales tax, for the transit system. The County Executive must administer this County policy.”

“The Mayor agrees with financing a commuter rail line that could be a good idea for the region, but he’s opposed to dedicated funding for the existing transit system that serves the City of Milwaukee extensively. The Mayor is not listening to the transit concerns of low-income and minority citizens in the City of Milwaukee. Unlike a commuter rail line that is restricted by the location of tracks and stations, MCTS features a large route network accessible to residents in every neighborhood of the city. MCTS provides more than 50 million rides per year.”

“I commend the Milwaukee Common Council for following my lead and standing up to the Mayor, as I have with the Milwaukee County Executive. It’s unacceptable that the Mayor of Milwaukee has not shown any interest in providing a stable and dedicated funding source to preserve a service that so many of his constituents use every single day.”

“County Executive Walker and Mayor Barrett’s refusal to support Milwaukee County Transit is a shame. They need to stop giving constituents lip service on transit and actually take a step to improve the situation. MCTS is the primary means of transportation for thousands of residents. It’s embarrassing the Mayor and County Executive are turning their backs on so many people who depend on riding the bus.”

Chairman Holloway is calling upon the County and City representatives to the Regional Transit Authority to identify a dedicated funding source for Milwaukee County Transit at the Authority’s meeting Tuesday morning, January 30th.

Room 201, Courthouse • 901 North 9th Street • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233
Phone: 414-278-4261 • FAX: 414-223-1380 • E-Mail: lholloway@milwcnty.com